

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78821

KATSUMATA, Yoshihiro, et al.

Appln. No.: [Divisional of Application No. 09/987,077] Group Art Unit: 1711

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Examiner: Melanie Bissett

Filed: December 15, 2003

For: INK WASTAGE ABSORBER AND INK SUPPORTER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form which are all the references of record in parent application No. 09/987,077. Applicant is not submitting duplicate copies of these references but requests that they be listed on the face of any patent granted on the above application. (See 37 CFR §1.98(d)).

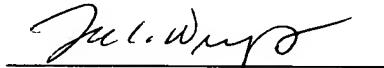
The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
Divisional Application of Application No. 09/987,077
Page 2

appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 15, 2003

<p>Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	Division of App. 09/987,077
				Confirmation Number	Unknown
				Filing Date	December 15, 2003
				First Named Inventor	KATSUMATA, Yoshihiro
				Art Unit	1711
Examiner Name	Examiner Melanie Bissett				
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q78821

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 5,182,579		01-26-1993	Haruta et al.
		US 5,446,482		11-14-1995	Johnson
		US 4,670,477		06-02-1987	Kelly et al.
		US 3,961,629	A	06-08-1976	Richter et al.
		US 3,994,298	A	11-30-1976	Des Marais, Thomas A.
		US 3,388,081	A	06-11-1968	Merten et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.			Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
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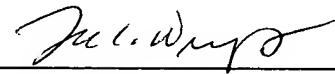
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